



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council
February 19, 2013
10:00 AM**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
General Kevin R. McBride
Pete Gaynor
Peter Ginaitt
Alysia Mihalakos
Dawn Lewis
Erin Lambie
Elizabeth McDonald
James Ball
Vin Marzullo
Paul Stasiuk
Brian Pires
Bill Mullen
Andrea Tatro
Jay Burdick
Joseph Arsenault
Jeff Hatcher
Gregory Scungio
Eric LaRiviere
Lori Adamo
Ken McCarthy
Erin McDonough
Alan Seitz
Larry Grimaldi
Jeff Kelly
Christopher DeGrave
Mike DeMello
Joe McCooey
Shad Ahmed
Joseph Shilling
Donna DiMichele

Bernita Davis
Vlad Ibarra

I. Call to Order / Lieutenant Governor Roberts

Lt. Governor Roberts acknowledged that RIEMA Executive Director Theresa Murray was stepping down as of Friday, February 15, and that as she brought a lot of expertise in the Cybersecurity realm she was able to get the Business Emergency Operations Center up and running. Lt. Governor Roberts wished her well in her future endeavors.

The Lt. Governor thanked members for their flexibility in rescheduling the meeting due to Winter Storm Nemo. The Lt. Governor, MG McBride and Director Murray recognized that many of our members were fully engaged over the weekend as part of the ongoing response following the winter storm. What she observed from abroad was that the Governor led a strong effort in preparation and response to the storm, with Rhode Islanders pulling together to help out neighbors and friends in need.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked Liz McDonald from the American Red Cross to provide a shelter update. Ms. McDonald informed members that nine regional shelters opened, with many communities opening up Warming Centers.

Ms. McDonald expressed the need for more cots as they were maxed out in some shelters. Also, there were some issues with communications and transportation in light of the driving ban.

Lt. Governor asked members if there was enough interest in creating an Ad-hoc Legislative Workgroup that would meet several times during the 2013 Session to track, support/oppose legislation and attend hearings, etc. Those that are interested were encouraged to see Vlad at the end of the meeting.

Lastly, Lt. Governor Roberts discussed the hybrid collaboration of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) with EMAC. There was an Ad-hoc Senior Housing and Preparedness Workgroup that met on January 30th. The meeting had a great mix of stakeholders including: RI Housing, RIEMA, HEALTH, the Alliance for Long Term Care and National Grid among others. The group will convene again in March. If anyone is interested in participation please let us know.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2013

Minutes were approved

III. RIEMA Update

MG McBride stated that former Director Murray had step down for personal reasons that included elderly care. He will continue working with the Governor's Office to expedite the process.

MG McBride was impressed with the response to the blizzard and the engagement of external stakeholders. He continues to work with FEMA on the preliminary Personal Disaster Assistance (PDA) phase, assessing damage and seeing which counties are eligible for relief. An After Action Review will take place to capture the issues and improve processes.

IV. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Reports

A. Interoperability Communications Committee—*RIEMA Executive Director*

MG McBride will oversee the Interoperability Communications Committee for now. He will convene with RIEMA Deputy Director Johnson to map out what is needed and set up dates for the committee to convene.

B. Healthcare Coalition of Rhode Island—*Alysia Mihalakos, Dept. of Health /Dawn Lewis, Hospital Association of Rhode Island.*

Ms. Mihalakos provided an updated of the kickoff meeting of the Long Term Care Mutual Aid. Rhode Island will use the same vendor currently in place for Connecticut and Massachusetts. 60 out of the 90 nursing homes attended the meeting. Some of the topics discussed were transportation, putting a plan in place for evacuations, asset allocation, and capabilities assessment. The system should be online by the summer prior to the Tabletop for the Hurricane season.

Ms. Mihalakos stated that with Winter Storm Nemo there were some issues including a surge at hospitals as 16 individuals showed up for shelter. The individuals showed up before the shelters were opened and the road were closed. The conversation turned to nursing homes and generator power use. The General interjected that the generator piece was key because it can trigger complex issues.

Ms. Mihalakos asked what the evacuation trigger in the cold was in light of unclear information available from literature. MG McBride stated that it was an escalation decision based on multiple factors. He suggested addressing it as part of the After Action Review with the EMA directors.

C. Haz Mat/Decon Technical Working Group—*James Ball, Dept. of Environmental Management.*

Mr. Ball discussed some of the allocation of prior funding being utilized for re-certification for the teams and procurement of equipment.

Mr. Ball went on to address the false alarm with the white powder incident in East Providence that was taken to the Center for Disease Control and thankfully it came back negative.

D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working Group — *Susan Earley*,
Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

No report

E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—*Vincent Marzullo*, Corporation for National &
Community Service.

Mr. Marzullo provided an overview of Serve RI (SRI) 2012 Year End. The agency was able to mobilize 1033 volunteers, who provided 1,449 shifts of work, putting in 6,704 hours of service.

SRI clean up volunteer deployment totaled 869 clean up volunteers, plus an additional 11 members of AmeriCorps NCCC team, filling 1,263 shifts and putting in 5680 hours of service in response to the damage caused by Sandy.

Mr. Marzullo discussed some of the partnerships with member agencies including United Way 2-1-1 and the Red Cross as well as RIVOAD /Jay Burdick and Andrea Tatro from RIEMA. Mr. Burdick mentioned how volunteers were utilized to shovel snow for elderly residents throughout the state.

F. Law Enforcement Working Group—*Lt. Eric LaRiviere*, Rhode Island State Police.

Lt. LaRiviere provided the updated on behalf of Lt. Wall. Lt. LaRiviere has been in law enforcement for 30 years with 24 years with the State Police.

Lt. LaRiviere was pleased with the positive changes enacted during Nemo, including the integration of the National Guard component to the Barracks. There were no major issues with transportation and in fact he stated that the driving ban really helped efforts by the public works departments. The prioritization and pre-planning for busy intersections with RIEMA, RISP and DOT paid big dividends.

G. Port Security—*Erin Lambie*, United States Coast Guard.

Ms. Lambie provided an update on Captain Verne Gifford "Change of Command" ceremony which will take place on April 12, 2013 at the Naval War College. Captain Gifford will be moving to Boston to be the Chief of Staff for Coast Guard District 1, covering all of New England and New York City. He will be relieved by Captain John Kondratowicz who is currently completing an assignment at the Naval College, but was previously the Deputy Sector Commander at Sector Southeastern New England.

Ms. Lambie went on to discuss their ongoing efforts for a maritime security exercise to take place in Point Judith in June. The exercise will focus on the mass casualty/mortality response to a terrorist attack on an Interstate Ferry. The exercise will incorporate the planning process for

law enforcement agencies during an increased maritime security level for coordination and efficient use of limited resources for patrolling the waters of Rhode Island.

The Coast Guard continues to conduct maritime security meetings in four port regions of Newport/Jamestown, Providence/East Providence, Quonset Point/Port of Davisville, and Point Judith/Block Island. These meetings will focus on communications, asset management, identification of possible incident command post locations, and a short tabletop discussion for a response to an increase in maritime security level. Lastly, Ms. Lambie provided an update on the Coast Guard's efforts to enhance efficiency by updating the notification procedures for incidents. Their goal is to use existing systems within the State to quickly reach out to partner agencies, local communities and local officials. Thus, increasing their ability to quickly respond and inform impacted and potentially impacted communities of any threats.

H. Special Populations Working Group—*Steven Florio* RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing /*Susan Earley*, BHDDH.

Mr. Florio was unable to attend due to a prior commitment but provided a written update. According to Mr. Florio the Special Needs Workgroup is working on inviting new members on the committee since many members have left for new career changes or endeavors.

Its first quarterly meeting of 2013 was scheduled on Monday, Feb. 11th at 10:30am at Clean Care of New England but it was canceled due to Nemo. The chairs are reviewing and identifying priorities for the next few years depending on resource status.

Mr. Florio wanted members to be aware of the scheduled hearing on Article 17 dealing with communications. The article is Emergency and Public Communication Access Program (EPCAP) that the RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been pushing forward for a few years. This would help the RICDHH to establish the program. The program would expand resources to create communication access during emergencies and public services during non-emergency for the deaf and hard of hearing population. Also, it would create a part-time position that will dedicate its time on issues of transportation and long term care.

I. Urban Search and Rescue—*Chief Robert Seltzer*, Smithfield Fire Department.

No report.

J. Transportation Security Working Group—*Brian Pires*, Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council/Transportation Security Working Group.

Mr. Pires provided a brief update with no localized anti-terrorism at this point, their primary concern is with terrorist financing and he will provide a more detail account at the next meeting.

K. Mass Casualty—*Lt. Patrick McMahon*, Charlestown Police Department.

There was an update from members of the committee that a trailer was used at the Chariho shelter with generator back up.

An issue was raised with regards to transportation of stranded individuals, including the utilization of strike teams that might serve better under those circumstances. Another option explored was for these individuals to register with the Special Needs Registry as it seems some municipalities are not taking full advantage of this resource.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

Lt. Governor Roberts opened the floor for comments or suggestions.

Peter Ginaitt, would like to further explore some of the concerns raised with HIPAA during emergency situations and determine the boundaries. A group comprised of Lifespan, HEALTH, HARI and the Lt. Governor's Office will further consider this issue.

Jeff Kelly, recently attended an Active Shooter training and will provide RIEMA's School Safety Program with a very handy resource guide.

Paul Stasiuk, from National Grid thanked the strike teams and noted the enhanced flow of communications was pivotal to bring back to the community liaisons.

Donna DiMichele, provided an updated from MA where the cultural institutions that are part of Emergency Support Function 11 were only enacted in the recovery phase. Ms. DiMichele urged RIEMA to include ESF 11 during the event. Also, on March 13 there will be a training about Active Shooter available in Barrington.

The next EMAC meeting will take place March 12, Educational Meeting.